

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Gary Anderson Waterline Project

Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2014

Proponent: Gary Anderson, P.O. Box 1622, Malta, MT 59538

Type and Purpose of Action: The proponent wishes to install a 1.5" buried water line across approximately 200 ft of State Land.

Location: SE4SE4SE4SE4 of Sec.16, T-31N, R-30E

County: Phillips

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	The applicant has submitted a Land Use License Application to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)-Glasgow Unit Office along with a map showing the approximate location of the project. The purpose of the Land Use License application is to install a 1.5" buried waterline across approximately 200 ft of State Land.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	Government agencies holding land within the rest of the project area would be involved if their land holdings are planned to be utilized.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant a Land Use License to Gary Anderson to place a buried water line on the listed State owned tract. No Action Alternative: Deny a Land Use License to Gary Anderson to place a buried water line on the listed State owned tract.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	There are no fragile, compactable, or unstable soils present or any unusual geologic features. Mr. Anderson would be responsible for all reclamation, if necessary, if the project proceeds. Action: Impacts to the soils would be temporary and soils are anticipated to return to normal. No impacts to fragile, compactable, or unstable soils or any unusual geologic features are anticipated. No Action: No impacts to the geology or soil characteristics would occur.
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	The project area does not contain any significant surface or groundwater resources. Action: Impacts to water quality, quantity, and/or distribution of surface and ground water are not anticipated. No Action: No impacts to the water quality, quantity,

	and/or distribution would occur.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	<p>The project area is not located in an air quality regulation zone or airshed.</p> <p>Action: The air quality may or may not be temporarily reduced during installation. Small amounts of pollutants from machinery and particulates from the disturbance of the areas soil may be produced. The possible reduction in air quality would be minimal and would quickly return to normal by natural means.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to air quality would occur.</p>
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	<p>The Montana Natural Heritage Program lists 1 plant "potential species of concern" within the project area's township. No rare plants or cover types are known to exist within the project area.</p> <p>Action: Temporary disturbances to plant communities located within the proposed project area would occur. Vegetative communities would not be permanently altered. No impacts to rare plants or cover types are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the vegetation cover, quantity, and/or quality would occur.</p>
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	<p>The Montana Natural Heritage Program lists 7 animal "species of concern" and 5 "potential species of concern" within the project area's township. None of the listed species are known to substantially use the habitats located within the project area. The proposed area is located along Highway 191 and along the graveled Assiniboine Road. None of the area's wildlife would be affected beyond temporary displacement during installation and maintenance of the lines.</p> <p>Action: Habitats would be temporarily disturbed during installation of the lines. No lasting impacts to terrestrial, avian, and/or aquatic life and/or habitats are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to terrestrial, avian, and/or aquatic life and habitats would occur.</p>
9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?	<p>The Montana Natural Heritage Program lists 7 "(animal) species of concern", 5 "(animal) potential species of concern" and 1 "(plant) potential species of concern" within the project area's respective township. The proposed area is also located along Highway 191 and along the graveled Assiniboine Road. None of the listed species are known to substantially use the habitats located within the project area. None of the area's wildlife would be affected beyond temporary displacement during installation and maintenance of the lines.</p> <p>Action: No lasting impacts to unique, endangered,</p>

	<p>fragile, or limited environmental resources are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources would occur.</p>
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	<p>The DNRC conducts routine evaluations of this tract. In past evaluations, stone circles have been observed in the section of the proposed project, but not near the proposed project area itself. A more recent onsite evaluation by DNRC personnel revealed no historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources present in the project area.</p> <p>Action: No impacts to the areas historical, archeological, and/or paleontological resources are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the areas historical, archeological, and/or paleontological resources would occur.</p>
11.AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	<p>The landscape consists of gently rolling hills and plains being used primarily for general farming and/or ranching operations. The project area will be in the view of the existing Highway 191 and also Assiniboine Road. The water line would be buried and will not interfere with the area's aesthetics. Increases of noise would occur during construction; these impacts would cease as soon as the project is completed.</p> <p>Action: No impacts to the areas aesthetics are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the areas aesthetics would occur.</p>
12.DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	<p>The area does not contain limited resources. Nearby activities consist mostly of general farming and/or ranching operations.</p> <p>Action: No impacts to the demands of environmental resources such as land, water, air, and/or energy resources are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the demands of environmental resources such as land, water, air, and/or energy resources would occur.</p>
13.OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	<p>Action: No impacts to studies, plans, and/or projects pertinent to this area are anticipated to occur.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to studies, plans, and/or projects would occur.</p>

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	<p>The proposed project would create human health and/or safety risks associated with the installation and maintenance of the water line.</p> <p>Action: The proponent understands the risks associated with the installation of the water line as</p>

	<p>an occupational hazard. The risk would only be present during installation and maintenance of the proposed line.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to human health and/or safety risks would occur.</p>
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	<p>Nearby activities consist primarily of general farming and/or ranching operations.</p> <p>Action: The surface owner may experience damages of the State land due to surface disturbances from the proposed action. Currently, where the water line is proposed to be buried, there is no farming or ranching use.</p> <p>No Action: No action would reduce future potentials for industrial, commercial, and/or agricultural activities in the area.</p>
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	<p>The project would be completed in a relatively short time frame and it would not create permanent jobs; however, it is likely temporary jobs would be available during the installation of the line.</p> <p>Action: No lasting impacts to quantity and distribution of employment are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to quantity and distribution of employment would occur.</p>
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	<p>Action: The installation of this waterline is not anticipated to impact the local and state tax base and/or tax revenues.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the local and state tax base and/or tax revenues will occur.</p>
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	<p>Action: Increases in traffic levels would occur during installation of the line. The increased traffic would not occur at a substantial level. No impacts to government services are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the level of demand for road use or government services would occur.</p>
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	<p>Action: No impacts to local environmental plans and goals are anticipated occur as the construction is in remote areas.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to local environmental plans and goals would occur.</p>
20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	<p>The tract of State land in this proposed project area is legally accessible and provides recreational opportunities. The limited and temporary impact of the installation of the buried fiber optic telecommunication line would not permanently affect recreational opportunities. No wilderness areas are located within a close proximity to the proposed project area.</p>

	<p>Action: No impacts to the access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities would occur.</p>
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	<p>Action: No impacts to the density and/or distribution of population and housing are anticipated to occur.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the density and/or distribution of population and housing will occur.</p>
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	<p>Action: No impacts to the areas social structures, native/traditional lifestyles, or communities are anticipated to occur.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts social structures, native/traditional lifestyles, or communities would occur.</p>
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	<p>Action: No impacts to the areas cultural uniqueness and/or diversity are anticipated to occur.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the areas cultural uniqueness and/or diversity would occur.</p>
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	<p>Action: The School trust would receive \$150 as compensation for granting this Land Use License.</p> <p>No Action: The School trust would not receive \$150.00 as compensation for granting this Land Use License. No impacts to the social and economic circumstances would occur.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By: _____
 Marc Kloker (Land Use Specialist)

Date: April 17, 2014

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action alternative.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	No significant impacts are anticipated.

☐ EIS ☐ More Detailed EA ☒ No Further Analysis

Date: April 17, 2014

